

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 14 bridging page 3, of the specification as follows:

Many vibratory trench rollers and some other vibratory compactors require that the amplitude of the vibrations generated by the machine's exciter assembly be varied. For instance, it is often desirable to generate relatively low amplitude vibrations during machine start and stop operations to reduce the likelihood of disturbing the freshly compacted surface and to otherwise generate higher amplitude vibrations to maximize compaction. To achieve this effect, many vibratory trench rollers incorporate a so-called "dual amplitude exciter." A dual amplitude exciter typically has multiple eccentric weights mounted on its rotatable shaft. A first, relatively massive eccentric weight is fixed to the shaft so as to rotate with it. One or more additional, less massive eccentric weights are mounted on the shaft so as to be swingable on it between at least two angular positions. Each of these "free swinging" weights has a tab or other structure that limits the range of rotation relative to the fixed weight when the exciter shaft rotates in a particular direction. When the exciter shaft is driven in a first direction, each free swinging weight swings to a first angular position on the exciter shaft in which its eccentricity adds to the eccentricity of the fixed weight, generating high amplitude vibrations. Conversely, when the exciter shaft is rotated in the opposite direction, each free swinging weight swings to a second angular position on the exciter shaft in which its eccentricity detracts from the eccentricity of the fixed weight, thereby generating low

amplitude vibrations. Dual amplitude exciters are disclosed, e.g., in U.S. Patent No. 4,830,534 to Schmelzer et al. and U.S. Patent No. ~~4,618,133~~5,618,133 to Mitsui et al.

Please amend the paragraph on page 5, beginning on line 2 of the specification, as follows:

In accordance with a first aspect of the invention, a simple and easily implementable method of assembling an exciter assembly for a compaction machine comprises mounting a torque transfer element and a bearing on an exciter shaft. A fixed eccentric weight is mounted on the exciter shaft. First and second free swinging eccentric weights are mounted on the exciter shaft adjacent respective ends of the fixed eccentric weight so as to be rotatable a limited amount relative to the exciter shaft. The first and second free swinging eccentric weights are restrained from substantial axial movement along the exciter shaft solely by being sandwiched the first and second free swinging eccentric weights between the respective ends of the fixed eccentric weight and operative components of the exciter assembly. All of the mounting steps are performed without the use of any mounting hardware. In fact, as is apparent from the above, mounting hardware such as retaining rings do not form operative components of an exciter assembly. Preferably, each of the operative components comprises one of the bearing and the torque transfer element.